

Remarks

Claims 1-13 are currently pending in the Application, Claim 8 has been canceled without prejudice and Claim 14 is newly presented herein.

Allowable Claims

Applicant acknowledges with gratitude the Examiner's indication of allowability as to Claims 3-6 and 12-13.

Claim amendments

This response amends Claim 1 by adding limitations recited in the originally filed Claim 8 and cancels Claim 8 without prejudice. Support for the amendments can be found, for example, in Figure 3 and Claim 8 as originally filed. No new matter has been added.

This response amends Claim 9 to properly depend from Claim 1 instead of canceled Claim 8.

New Claims

This response adds new Claim 14. The new claims are used to more completely claim the invention and are **not** offered in response to the Examiner's rejections. Support for the new Claim 14 can be found in the original Claim 1 and 8, and on page 6 lines 23 of the specification.

35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejection

Claims 1-2 and 7-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious in view of applicant's Admitted Prior Art (APA) (Figure 1B) and further in view of Won (U.S. Patent No. 6,046,785).

Claim 1

A. Applicant submits that APA and Won do not disclose, suggest or teach, *inter alia*, at least the following features recited by amended Claim 1 of the present application:

“said reflector having … a first holder, and a second holder … the first holder having a first linking member, and the second holder having a second linking member… wherein the first and second coupling members are respectively directly combined with the first and second linking members”

The Examiner asserts that the limitation of “the first and second coupling members are respectively directly combined with the first and second linking members” as recited in Claim 1 is not disclosed in APA but is disclosed by Won’s “groove 110” that interconnects with a “protrusion 310” on the “frame 200.” See page 5, second to last paragraph of the final Official Action. Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner’s assertion.

As indicated by the Examiner, Won’s protrusions “310” are on the frame “200.” Because the protrusions “310” are on the frame “220,” Won does not teach, disclose or suggest “the first and second coupling members are respectively directly combined with the first and second linking members” as recited in amended Claim 1 wherein it is the reflector that contains “the first holder having a first linking member, and the second holder having a second linking member” as recited in amended Claim 1.

Hence, Claim 1 is patentable over APA and Won and should be allowed by the Examiner. Claims 2, 7 and 9-11 depend from Claim 1. “If an independent claim is nonobvious under 35 U.S.C. 103, then any claim depending therefrom is nonobvious.” *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988). Therefore, in light of the above discussion of Claim 1, Applicant submits that Claims 2, 7 and 9-11 are also allowable.

B. Applicant submits that APA and Won do not disclose, suggest or teach, *inter alia*, at least the following features recited by amended Claim 1 of the present application:

“a diffusing means corresponding to the light emitting surface”

Hence, Claim 1 is patentable over APA and Won and should be allowed by the Examiner. Claims 2, 7 and 9-11, at least based on their dependency on Claim 1, are also allowable.

Patentability of new Claim 14

New Claim 14 recites “A backlight unit for a liquid crystal display, comprising: a light guide plate having a light emitting surface, a light receiving lateral side, a first coupling lateral side, and a second coupling lateral side, the first coupling lateral side having a first coupling member and the second coupling lateral side having a second coupling member, wherein the first coupling lateral side and the second coupling lateral side are roughly perpendicular to the light emitting surface; a diffusing means corresponding to the light emitting surface; a reflector disposed along the light receiving lateral side, said reflector having a reflective cover, an opening, a first holder, and a second holder, the opening positioned toward the light receiving lateral side, the first holder extending toward the first coupling lateral side and the second holder extending toward the second coupling lateral side, the first holder having a first linking member, and the second holder having a second linking member; and a light source installed inside the reflector, the light emitted from the light source being reflected by the reflective cover and transmitted into the light guide plate, wherein the first and second coupling members are concave-convex members, wherein the first and second coupling members are respectively directly combined with the first and second linking members for assembling the reflector and the light guide plate, and a predetermined distance is formed between the light source and the light guide plate.” Applicant submits that at least some of these features are not disclosed by the prior art cited by the Examiner. Hence, Claim 14 is patentable and should be allowed by the Examiner.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of all the claims are respectfully solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit overpayment to deposit account no. 12-0415. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, then the Commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136 (a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account no. 12-0415.

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(Name of Person Signing)

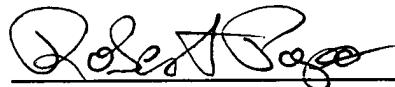
Tinsley

(Signature)

December 28, 2005

(Date)

Respectfully submitted,



Robert Popa
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 43,010
LADAS & PARRY
5670 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 2100
Los Angeles, California 90036
(323) 934-2300

Encls: Postcard